



**ISETS**  
INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR  
ENERGY TRANSITION STUDIES

**December 2023 | SPECIAL NEWSLETTER**

# **SUMMARY FOR THE INAUGURAL ISETS INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE**

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**ISETS**  
INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR  
ENERGY TRANSITION STUDIES



**ESCAP**  
Economic and Social Commission  
for Asia and the Pacific

# INAUGURAL INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR ENERGY TRANSITION STUDIES (ISETS) INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE “ENERGY TRANSITION AMID UNPRECEDENTED CHANGES”

**15-19 October 2023**

**Bangkok, Thailand**

## **Co-Organizers:**

International Society for Energy Transition Studies  
Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

## **Principal Conference Partners**

Collaborative Innovation Center for Emissions Trading System Co-constructed by the Province and Ministry  
Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (Knowledge Partner)

## **Major Partners:**

Society for the Studies of Climate Finance  
Australian Energy Transition Institute (Conference Manager)

## **Supporting Organizations**

Ember (Media Partner)  
Chongqing Renewable Energy Society  
Global Energy Interconnection Development and Cooperation Organization



Society for the Studies of  
Climate Finance  
气候金融研究分会



重庆市可再生能源学会  
Chongqing Renewable Energy Society



# CONFERENCE SUMMARY

## ✓ **Honorary Conference Chairs and Conference Chairs**

**Honorary Conference Chairs:** **Mr Suwit KHUNKITTI** (Co-Chairman, ISETS Advisory Committee; Vice Chairperson, Board of Trustees, Asian Institute of Technology; Former Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education, Thailand) and **Xiansheng SUN** (Council Chairma, ISETS; Former Secretary General, International Energy Forum, China)

**Conference Chairs:** **Xunpeng (Roc) SHI** (ISETS President; Professor, University of Technology Sydney, Australia), and **Michael WILLIAMSON** (Section Chief, ESCAP, United Nations) .

## ✓ **Fifty Keynote and Plenary Session Speakers and 200**

Nearly 50 senior officials, scholars, researchers, and experts from government, universities, research institutions, and enterprises around the world served as Keynote and Plenary Session Speakers and over 200 attendees.

## ✓ **Six Supporting Journals**

Six international academic journals supporting the conference: Energy Economics, Applied Energy, Journal of Climate Finance, Utilities Policy, Chinese Journal of Population, Resources and Environment (ESCI), Economic Change and Restructuring

## ✓ **Activities**

The ISETS inaugural international conference set two Keynote Panels, the 10th International Symposium on Market-oriented Green & Low-Carbon Development, six Dual Plenary Sessions, ISETS Youth Dialogue & Youth Voice Competition, twelve Sessions, and seven ERIA Working Group Meeting.

## ✓ **10 Key Ideas**

## ✓ **10 Action Initiatives**

# CONFERENCE ACTIVITIES

## KEYNOTE PANELS

### Opening Ceremony

- **Sompop Pattanariyankool**, Representative and Director of Ministry of Energy of Thailand, **Xiansheng Sun**, President of ISETS, **Jun Arima**, Senior Advisor to the President of the ASEAN and East Asian Economic Research Institute (ERIA), **Raphael PM Lotilla**, Minister of Energy of the Republic of the Philippines, **Jie Fang**, Director of the Collaborative Innovation Center for Emissions Trading System Co-constructed by the Province and Ministry, and President of Hubei University of Economics, and other leaders attended the opening ceremony and delivered speeches.
- **Lin Yang**, Deputy Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), was authorized to deliver a speech on behalf of **Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana**, Deputy Secretary General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of ESCAP. Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana congratulated ISETS on the progress made and hoped that ISETS will continue to play a role in promoting diverse dialogue and knowledge sharing, becoming a knowledge hub for energy transformation in the future.
- **Shi Xunpeng**, Chairman of ISETS and Professor at the University of Technology Sydney, moderated the opening ceremony.



## Keynote 1: Navigating challenges ahead: the energy transition in Asia and the Pacific

- **Michael Williamson**, Co Chair of the Conference and Director of ESCAP Energy Division, moderated the keynote.
- **Michael Williamson** emphasized the urgency of transition to clean energy and the important role that collaboration between academia and policymakers plays in addressing complex issues.
- **Raphael PM Lottilla**, Minister of Energy of the Republic of the Philippines, emphasized the importance of Asia in global greenhouse gas reduction, as well as four strategies for the Philippines to transition to clean energy: increasing renewable energy, offshore wind power plans, expanding energy infrastructure, and voluntarily retiring coal-fired assets.
- **Suwit Khunkitti**, Former Deputy Prime Minister of Thailand and Co Chairman of the ISETS Advisory Committee, reiterated Asia's crucial role in global greenhouse gas reduction and emphasized its impact on other sustainable development goals (SDGs). He advocates working with local stakeholders to tailor policy solutions to ensure a fair and equitable energy transition.
- **Nobuo Tanaka**, Honorary Director of the International Energy Agency and Co Chairman of the ISETS Advisory Committee, analyzed the winners and losers in the current energy transition, highlighting geopolitical factors, including the rise of China and the European Union in renewable energy and the decline of the natural gas era, and emphasizing the importance of cooperation, especially in cooperation involving women and the younger generation, as well as the need to reduce financing costs for renewable energy projects.
- **Aoife Foley**, Professor at the University of Manchester and ISETS consultant, regards policy consistency as a challenge, challenges the concept of the end of the natural gas era, and emphasizes that it may continue to exist. She advocates for more private sector research and development, collaboration, and innovation.
- **Jun Arima**, Senior Advisor to the President of the ASEAN and East Asian Economic Research Institute (ERIA), emphasized the need for more natural gas to reduce coal based emissions, as well as the important role of ammonia and hydrogen in the energy structure.

He advocates for a deep decarbonization strategy and emphasizes the importance of customized solutions that reflect national condition.



## Keynote 2: Zero transition in Asia and the Pacific

- **Xunpeng Shi**, Chairman of ISETS, moderated the keynote.
- **Norov Vladamir**, Advisor of Uzbekistan's president, stated that interconnected power grids can unleash enormous energy potential. He emphasized the need to establish grid interconnections to promote accelerated development at the regional and global levels in order to expand ambitions and accelerate the achievement of net zero emissions in the future.
- **Zehong Liu**, Executive Vice Chairman of the Global Energy Internet Development Cooperation Organization, stated that the global energy internet is a key solution for accelerating transformation. He pointed out that clean energy requires a favorable grid environment and emphasized the importance of shared transmission plans and international cooperation for large-scale deployment of clean energy.
- **Saifur Rahman**, Chairman and CEO of IEEE, pointed out that the focus of the power industry is on six major emissions reductions, emphasizing improving energy efficiency and reducing carbon emissions through various means. He also emphasized the importance of cross-border connectivity at the bilateral, unilateral, regional, and global levels.

- **Weerawat Chantanakom**, Advisor of International Affairs of the Ministry of Energy of Thailand, introduced Thailand's efforts to achieve decarbonization of the energy system and emphasized the importance of green finance. He also discussed initiatives in electric vehicle production, floating solar energy in reservoirs, and CCUS investment, as well as regional initiatives such as the ASEAN Grid Plan.
- **Xiansheng Sun**, President of ISETS, emphasized the challenge of stopping investment in fossil fuels while ensuring economic development. He pointed out that regional coordination, interconnectivity, and technological investment can alleviate this transformation and lay the foundation for achieving net zero emissions.





# THE 10<sup>th</sup> INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON MARKET-ORIENTED GREEN & LOW-CARBON DEVELOPMENT

## Opening Ceremony

- The 10th International Symposium on Market oriented Green and Low Carbon Development, hosted by the Collaborative Innovation Center for Emissions Trading System Co-constructed by the Province and Ministry of Hubei University of Economics.
- **Jie Fang**, Director of the Collaborative Innovation Center for Emissions Trading System Co-constructed by the Province and Ministry, **Sangmin Nam**, the Director of the Department of Environment and Development of ESCAP, attended the opening ceremony and delivered speeches.
- **Shi Xunpeng**, Chairman of ISETS and Professor at the University of Technology Sydney, moderated the opening ceremony.

## Session 1: Energy transition and energy security

- **Jinjun Xue**, Consultant at ISETS and Professor of Nagoya University, moderated the session.
- **Jinjun Xue**, emphasized the importance of energy transformation for carbon neutrality, discussing energy security from three perspectives: energy structure, coal transformation, and energy efficiency, and exploring energy security issues under geopolitics.
- **Bruce A. McCall**, Professor of Texas A&M University in the United States pointed out that the use of biofuels is not only inefficient, but also carries the risk of causing deforestation and may compete with food supply.
- **Deepak Sharma**, Professor of Asian Institute of Technology, emphasizes that Asia faces technological, economic, environmental, social, cultural, and political challenges in the process of energy transformation, and we may currently lack sufficient capacity to address these challenges.

- **Elena Reshetova**, Researcher of Fortune, emphasizes that the globalization and interconnection of energy systems have brought new risks to energy security.



## Session 2: Market-oriented Policy Tools and Energy Transition

- **Keying Wang**, Professor of School of Low Carbon Economics, Hubei University of Economics, moderated the session.
- **Weerawat Chantanakome**, Advisor of International Affairs of the Ministry of Energy of Thailand, introduced Thailand's emission reduction targets and clean energy development plans. Thailand promises to reduce emissions by 40% by 2030, achieve carbon neutrality by 2050, and achieve net zero emissions by 2065. He also pointed out that Thailand is actively promoting the utilization of renewable energy such as solar and wind energy.
- **Shabbir Gheewala**, Professor of KUMTT, introduced the importance of ecological labels for low-carbon development and the identification of green products. He believes that green procurement plans are one of the market tools for LCA (Life Cycle Assessment), which can minimize the impact of production on the environment.
- **Yongping Sun**, Vice Chairman of ISETS and Professor of Huazhong University of Science and Technology, analyzed the importance of the international carbon market in enhancing global emission reduction ambitions, and proposed the three difficulties faced by connecting

the international carbon market. He pointed out that the international carbon market can establish a bridge between developed and developing countries, alleviate the financial and technological shortages faced by developing countries in the field of climate change, and reduce the emission reduction costs of developed countries, So as to bring a win-win result.

- **Hisashi Yoshikawa**, Professor of the University of Tokyo, analyzed the importance of energy policies from the perspectives of global energy trends and geopolitics, emphasizing that constantly changing geopolitics may affect short-term and long-term decarbonization goals, and calling for close attention to global energy dynamics.



## DUAL PLENARY SESSIONS

### Session 1: Cooperation towards the energy transition: Green BRI and other initiatives

- **Lixia Yao**, Research of the Energy Research Institute of the National University of Singapore, moderated the session.
- **Kang Ouyang**, Professor of Huazhong University of Science and Technology, stressed the importance of the "the Belt and Road" initiative and the significance of China's

transformation from regional isolation to building a regional community of shared future through the "the Belt and Road" initiative.

- **Kaho Yu**, Research of the Asian Carbon Research Institute, pointed out that China's role in global energy governance is growing, and described the role of the "the Belt and Road" initiative in regional connectivity, trade and value chain.
- **Muyi Yang**, Deputy Director of the Policy Research Institute of the Asian Association, emphasized the necessity of getting rid of fossil fuels and attracting private investment in energy infrastructure, particularly mentioning the challenges facing Southeast Asia. He suggested regulatory reforms to encourage private investment and emphasized the urgency of energy transition and the need to move away from fossil fuels.
- **Anthony Coles**, Chairman of the Australia China Business Council, expressed concern about the slow progress of energy transformation and believes that the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) is a potential platform for improving cooperation.



## Session 2: ISETS-EFN Special Session: Energy and Climate Finance

- **Qiang Ji**, Vice President of ISETS and Research of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, moderated the session.
- **Qiang Ji**, emphasized the importance of establishing an energy finance alliance for promoting energy and climate finance cooperation and innovative development in China and the world from the perspectives of networking, globalization, integration and specialization.
- **Louis Cheng**, Professor of Hang Seng University in Hong Kong emphasized that practicing ESG concepts has a positive impact on developing countries, especially China, and more policies should be proposed to encourage developing countries to establish their own ESG evaluation systems.
- **David C. Broadstock**, Professor of the National University of Singapore, emphasizes that decarbonization should not be seen as a future issue, but rather as a top priority. He discussed how to transfer funds more quickly to support energy transformation and pointed out that asset grounding is an important issue that needs to be urgently addressed.
- **Xiaolei Sun**, Researcher of the Chinese Academy of Sciences proposed that extreme weather events are an important risk source that can not be ignored to affect the volatility of the global asset market, and a real-time and dynamic monitoring, forecasting and early warning system should be established to mitigate and respond to the market challenges brought by abnormal climate change.
- **Zhang Dayong**, Vice Chairman of ISETS and from Southwest University of Finance and Economics, emphasized that achieving net zero emissions is a crucial step towards achieving the desired goal. However, in the context of global economic slowdown and challenges faced by globalization, there is considerable uncertainty in achieving net zero emissions. He emphasized that we cannot rely solely on government funding to achieve transformation. We should attract more private funds to invest in renewable energy and require the joint efforts of the government, enterprises, and the public to achieve this long-term.



### Session 3: Innovative practices to accelerate the just energy transition

- **Daniel del Barrio Alvarez**, the University of Tokyo, moderated the session.
- **Katrin Luger**, Director of ESCAP Transportation, emphasized the important role of digitization in decarbonization of transportation. She believes that technology is driving the transformation of electric transportation and railway and waterway transportation modes, making them cleaner, quieter, and safer. She called for the establishment of broader alliances and cooperation to enhance the competitiveness of solutions and accelerate the decarbonization process.
- **Valerie Ducrot**, Research of the Global Gas Center believes that diversified fuel sources are the best way to transition, and points out that electrification may not be the top priority for most countries.
- **Ying Zhang**, Research of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, pointed out that although China's energy structure is mainly composed of fossil fuels, China has abundant wind and solar energy resources and high market competitiveness. This transformation can not only create more job opportunities, but also extend the industrial supply chain.

- **Yixin Sun**, Deputy Director of State Grid Energy Research Institute, emphasized the important role of digitalization in energy transformation. He proposed the application of digital technology in the power grid and the importance of promoting interconnectivity of resource elements. He pointed out that the future trend will be the combination of low capacity centralized and distributed development of small units, in order to achieve the coexistence of large and small power grids.

#### **Session 4: Connecting a Net zero future: Grid Interconnection and Energy Collaboration in Asia Pacific**

- The session was organized by the Global Internet Cooperation Organization, and **Gesong Chen**, Director of the Development Bureau, moderated the session.
- **Matthew Wittenstein**, the Chief of Section of ESCAP, emphasized the impact of terminal electrification and power system transition on energy transformation, highlighting the importance of grid and connectivity.
- **Jinyu Xiao**, Vice President of the Research Institute of the Global Energy Internet Development Cooperation Organization, emphasized the importance of the Global Energy Internet as a platform for achieving large-scale development, transportation, and consumption of clean energy.
- **Hang Za Dai**, Head of Climate & Energy, WWF - Myanmar discussed the strategic nexus for regional grid interconnection and high renewable energy potential.
- **Tula Ram**, Research fellow of SAARC Energy Center, introduced the cross border electricity trade in South Asia.
- **Reji Kumar Pillai**, the Chairman of Global Smart Energy Federation India, shared the experiences of energy transition and grid modernization in Indian power system.



## Session 5: Green Finance, Energy Transition and Sustainability

- **Farhad Taghizadeh Hesary**, Vice Chairman of ISETS and Professor of Tokai University, moderated the session.
- **Naoyuki Yoshino**, Professor of Keio University, focused on ESG ratings, net carbon taxes, and the green bond issuance standards issued by the International Carbon Market Association. He pointed out that ESG ratings from different rating agencies may distort asset allocation, emphasized the importance of a net carbon tax, and advocated for a unified net carbon tax on a global scale, but with different tax rates for developing and developed countries.
- **Christina Nikitopoulos**, Professor of the University of Technology Sydney, emphasized the crucial role of energy transformation in decarbonization of the economy. She pointed out that energy security, affordability, and sustainability need to be considered in the process of



energy transformation. She believes that the obstacles to accelerating energy transformation mainly come from technological, financial, and political aspects.

- **Cedric Rimaud**, Research of Asian climate finance, highlighted the green bond market and emphasized the importance of hybrid finance, believing that tools related to sustainable development will drive market growth.

## **Session 6: Energy transition in Asia and the Pacific: Future Prospective and Pathways**

- **Muyi Yang**, Deputy Director of the Policy Research Institute of the Asian Association, moderated the session.
- **Muyi Yang**, emphasized the attractiveness and challenges of accelerating renewable energy production capacity, while ERIA's Shigeru Kimura focuses on the necessity of relying on hydrogen energy support for carbon neutrality.
- **Guanghai Wang**, Vice President of State Grid Energy Research Institute, emphasized the slow process of transformation in the power industry and the investment in ensuring system safety.
- **Qi Ye**, Professor of the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, explained the trend of coal consumption in China.
- **Jiaxu Cheng**, Researcher of State Grid Energy Research Institute proposed the impact of transformation on female energy practitioners.
- **Weerawat Chantanakame**, Advisor of International Affairs of Ministry of Energy of Thailand, emphasizes the cost competitiveness of solar and wind energy, as well as the necessity of energy storage.
- **Eria's Phoumin Han**, discussed the cost increase brought about by system conversion and the challenge of transitioning to natural gas.
- **Aditya Lolla**, Asia Programme Lead of Ember, emphasized that energy transformation requires holistic solutions and regional cooperation.

## SESSIONS

- The Conference set 12 Sessions, the themes were “Technological innovation and energy transformation” “Energy transition risks” “Climate-resilient pathways for green finance and energy transition: New frontiers, solutions and policy implications” “Energy transition and energy efficiency” “The impacts and mitigation of carbon emissions” “Environmental impacts and governance, ESG” “Energy transition and energy consumption” “Renewable energy and clean energy” “Carbon neutrality and sustainable development” “Energy transition and carbon emissions” “Energy transition and energy security” “Financial environment and corporate behavior”.
- **Wen-Chieh Lee** from National Chengchi University, **Dequn Zhou** from Nanjing University of Aeronautics and Astronautics, **Chien-Chiang Lee** from Nanchang University, **Chin-Hsien Yu** from Southwestern University of Finance and Economics, **Tsun Se Cheong** from Hang Seng University of Hong Kong, **Mengmeng Guo** from Southwestern University of Finance and Economics, **Yanfang Zhang** from Nanjing University of Aeronautics and Astronautics, **Satoshi Honma** from Tbkai University, **Vinod Kumar Sharma** from Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research (IGIDR) , **Elena Reshetova** from Fortum, **Pengxiang Zhai** from Beihang University moderated the Sessions
- About 60 scholars discussed extensively key issues on energy transition, climate change, and sustainable development.

## ERIA WORKING GROUP MEETING

- ERIA Working Group Meeting were hold online and set 7 sessions, the themes were “Carbon pricing” “Modelling energy transitions” “Enabling energy transitions” “Energy transitions in East Asia(1-2)” “Impact assessment of energy transitions” “Regional connectivity”. 24 experts discussed the related topics.

# YOUTH VOICE COMPETITION

- The ISETS Youth Dialogue and Youth Voice Competition was jointly organized by ISETS, and ESCAP, hosted by the ISETS Energy Finance Committee.
- The theme of competition was "**Just Energy Transformation**" and aimed to foster more effective engagement with the younger generations (aged 18-24), inviting them to share their unique perspectives, viewpoints, and insights on energy transition. The competition witnessed an incredible display of talent and innovation from across the globe.
- Seven teams from across the worlds, including China, India, Indonesia, Thailand, and the United States, participated in the 1st ISETS Youth Dialogue at the UNCC, diving into a range of issues related to energy transition, such as energy poverty, and international cooperation.



- After rigorous assessment by the International Assessment Committee, **Team "Zephyr" from China has emerged as the distinguished first prize winner**. Four outstanding teams hailing from China, Thailand, India, and the USA respectively, have jointly earned the prestigious second prize. Similarly, the third prize has been shared among three remarkable teams from Pakistan, Azerbaijan, and Indonesia respectively, as well as three additional teams from China.
- Dayong Zhang, Chairman of the Organizing Committee and Vice Chairman of ISETS, moderated the dialogue. Qiang Ji, Chairman of the International Jury Committee and Vice Chairman of ISETS, Michael Williamson, Director of the Energy Department of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, Farhad Taghizadeh hesary, Vice Chairman of ISETS, and David Broadstock from the National University of Singapore presented awards to the award-winning teams.

## KEY IDEAS

1. **The need for achieving a rapid, inclusive, and just transition:** The conference attendees collectively recognized the need to transition from high-carbon to low-carbon energy systems to combat climate change. A shared commitment to a just and equitable energy transition was also evident, with a strong emphasis on tailoring policies to local contexts and ensuring the participation of, and benefit to vulnerable groups.
2. **Energy Security and Transition:** Attendees recognized the intertwined nature of energy security and transition, emphasising the need to ensure a reliable and stable energy supply during the shift towards cleaner and affordable sources.
3. **Clean energy investment is a developmental financing challenge:** Recognising that clean energy transition is not only about securing sufficient investment for expanding clean energy technologies and systems, especially from the private sector. It also requires ensuring such investment serves as a catalyst for long-term sustainable development.
4. **Innovative Climate Finance:** The need for innovative climate finance mechanisms and the use of ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance) criteria to stimulate private investment in clean energy were highlighted. However, stakeholders were cautioned about the risks of "greenwashing" and "green hushing."
5. **Risks in Transition:** The conference emphasised the importance of considering risks in the transition process, including the potential implications of existing investments in fossil fuels on long-term strategies, as well as geopolitical complexity and uncertainty.
6. **Cooperation in Energy Transition:** International cooperation was deemed essential for addressing the challenges of the energy transition, emphasising the role of collaboration, innovation, and knowledge sharing.

7. **Market-Oriented Policy Tools:** Market-oriented policy tools, such as ecolabeling and carbon labels, were acknowledged as useful instruments for achieving policy objectives. There were varying opinions on the effectiveness of carbon taxes and markets, especially in developing countries, with concerns about their implementation and social acceptability.
8. **Technological Advancements:** The role of digitalization and technological advancements in decarbonizing transportation and facilitating the energy transition was highlighted, with a particular focus on low-carbon vehicles, sustainable transportation, and digital transformation of the energy system.
9. **Role of Gas and Other Technologies:** Different views on the role of various technologies, such as nuclear and gas infrastructure, alongside renewable energy. Technological advancement has the capacity to extend the technical toolbox for addressing the climate change challenge.
10. **The Viability of CCUS, Hydrogen and Ammonia:** Some considered these technologies vital for deep decarbonization in the long-run, while others considered them useful only in certain industries.

# ACTION INITIATIVES

1. **Tailored Policy Solutions:** The conference called for the tailoring of policy solutions to local contexts, incorporating clear investment mobilisation strategies and systemic change, with a focus on inclusivity and societal participation.
2. **Financial Support and Investment:** Attendees recommended providing financial support to Least Developing Countries (LDCs), reducing the cost of finance for renewable projects, and ensuring the timely availability of finances. Investment in mature technologies ready to scale was encouraged.
3. **Grid Connectivity and Collaboration:** Improved grid connectivity and collaboration were emphasised, as well as the importance of aligning electricity markets and promoting cooperation and innovation. Collaboration between different regions was encouraged for mutual learning.
4. **Risk Assessment:** Policymakers were urged to conduct comprehensive risk assessments, considering economic, environmental, and social dimensions as integral parts of energy transition policy formulation. Identifying potential trade-offs and developing adaptive strategies to manage risks effectively were also recommended.
5. **Mitigating the Risks of Clean Energy Projects:** Increased private investment, combined with smarter support from the public sector and development agencies, is critical for enabling a deep and rapid decarbonisation of the energy sector. There is a need for market and regulatory reforms that could create a stable and predictable investment environment for renewable project investors.
6. **ESG Reporting:** The establishment of clear and standardised ESG reporting requirements for companies to enhance transparency and trust in ESG-related investments was recommended.

7. **Accelerated Expansion of Renewable Energy Supply:** A strong emphasis was placed on prioritising investments in renewable energy, which have been proven to be cleaner, more cost-effective, and scalable energy sources.
8. **Holistic Approach:** While acknowledging the importance of market instrument tools, the emphasis should be on a holistic approach that incorporates various policy measures and initiatives to address complex sustainability and climate change challenges effectively, and to achieve a people-centric transition.
9. **Global Energy Trends:** Policymakers were advised to closely monitor global energy trends, considering potential geopolitical implications and international conflicts that may arise from both energy-related and non-energy-related factors, as well as their spillover effects.
10. **Enhancing International Cooperation and Collaboration:** Multilateral platforms and dialogues were recommended to share best practices and collaborate on energy efficiency and demand, as well as investment attraction, supported by robust regulatory frameworks and market designs.



# ESCAP/ EXECUTIVE SECRETARY/ SPEECH

## ISETS International Conference and the Asia-Pacific Energy Week

**Delivered by Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana**

**16 October 2023**

**Excellencies, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,**

The issue of energy transition is of utmost importance. Energy is cross-cutting. It sits at the core of the sustainable development process and the global effort on climate change.

I welcome the formation of expert networks, such as the International Society for Energy Transition Studies (ISETS), dedicated to unpacking the complexities of energy transitions and their wider connections with economic development and social prosperity.

Research institutes and think tanks play an indispensable role in shaping the concepts, frameworks and ideas that are needed to manage the complexities of the energy transition and formulate strategies to chart the region's path towards a clean and sustainable energy future.

It requires multi-disciplinary collaboration and diverse perspectives from different countries and regions, as well as the engagement of various stakeholders.

It is impressive to see the extent to which you have managed to assemble expertise and diversity of stakeholders under the ISETS banner.

We have been working continuously on the energy transition, principally through supporting our member States in their efforts to reach the targets under SDG 7.

A key component of this effort is the promotion of regional power grid connectivity, where we have a very active programme underway in support of the Regional Roadmap on Power Grid Connectivity, a multi-year strategy to integrate the region's grids and provide an interconnected network for green energy.

We have also worked with many member States to develop SDG 7 road maps, national cooling action plans and studies on the phase-down of coal.

We have joined hands with many ISETS members on these efforts, and we look forward to greater collaboration in the future. As we embark on this transformative journey together, let me express our deep hopes and aspirations for ISETS.

We anticipate that ISETS will evolve into a valuable hub of knowledge and collaboration, unwavering in its commitment to foster dialogue and effectively gather and share information on technologies, products, solutions and experiences.

It is crucial that ISETS can increasingly attend to the growing needs for support in developing and least developed countries, regions and groups, contributing to a just, equitable and inclusive energy transition that leaves no one behind.

**Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,**

As we meet in Bangkok, a dynamic city within the Asia-Pacific region, I would like to reinforce the significance of this vast region in the fight against climate change and in shaping the future of sustainable energy.

Asia and the Pacific, to a large extent, will chart the global trajectory of many of these transformations. We hold many technologies, capital and the will required to put the energy transition on track.

The issues that you will be discussing over the next several days are of utmost importance for ESCAP and its member States.

I hope that the key ideas and innovative solutions you will develop through bringing together leading experts, policymakers, industry executives and thought leaders at the ISETS conference can be shared at the Ministerial Conference for the benefit of the region.

I wish you a successful conference.

Thank you.

Link: <https://www.unescap.org/speeches/isets-international-conference-and-asia-pacific-energy-week#>

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## *About ISETS*

The International Society for Energy Transition Studies (ISETS) is a worldwide non-profit professional organisation based in Australia, which has members in 40+ nations and more than ten international organisations.

ISETS was founded on 16 June 2020 through the Founding Declaration signed by a group of 31 energetic and internationally acclaimed professionals who have extensive experiences in energy, environment and other sustainable development issues.

ISETS aims to facilitate an equitable and inclusive transition of energy and relevant sectors toward a sustainable low-carbon future with consideration of economic development, social equity, and environmental stewardship through international partnerships.

Official Website: [www.isets.org](http://www.isets.org)

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